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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,059	07/15/2003	Jason Zhisheng Gao	NFL-0315	7683

7590 05/18/2004

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EXAMINER

CASTRO, ARNOLD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3747

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/620,059

Applicant(s)

GAO ET AL.

Examiner

Arnold Castro

Art Unit

3747

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 4,8,9,and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 4, 8, 9, and 16 provides for the use of items claimed in claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 respectively, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 4,8,9,and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 3747

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Freesh (US/4,356,806).

Freesh discloses a device to extend the useful life of a lubricant in an EGR equipped engine comprising: a) An chemical filter (41) placed in the EGR stream b) A chemical filter (42) placed just before the intake manifold c) A heat exchanger/cooler (40) placed in the upstream of the chemical filters to reduce the temperature of said EGR stream and to increase the relative humidity.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freesh. Claims 1 and 5 apply as above. However the express relative humidity is not disclosed. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the humidity through routine experimentation. Applicant has not disclosed that these particular humidity ratios provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem.

5. Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freesh 4,356,806 in view of Rohrbach et al. (US 6,379,564).

Art Unit: 3747

6. Freesh disclose a device to extend the useful life of a lubricant in an EGR equipped engine comprising: a) An optional chemical filter (41) placed in the EGR stream b) A chemical filter (42) placed just before the intake manifold c) A heat exchanger/cooler (40) placed in the upstream of the chemical filters to reduce the temperature of said EGR stream and to increase the relative humidity. However, Feesh does not disclose expressly an oil filter capable of neutralizing acids in the engine lubricant. Inherently, the engine of Freesh has an oil filter.

Rochrbach discloses an engine oil filter that is capable of neutralizing acids in the engine lubricant.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to replace the oil filter of the engine of Freesh with an oil filter disclosed in Rochrbach.

Modivation would have been to increase the life of the oil.

As for claims 11, 12, 14, and 15 the express relative humidity is not disclosed in either reference. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the humidity through routine experimentation. Applicant has not disclosed that these particular humidity ratios provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tuourtellotte et al. was discussed in description, Sanders is a chemical filter in EGR passage.

Art Unit: 3747

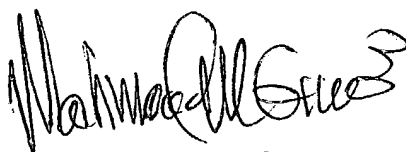
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnold Castro whose telephone number is (703) 305-0039. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yuen Henry can be reached on (703) 308-1946. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AC

Arnold Castro
Examiner
Art Unit 3747



MAHMOUD GIMIE
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3747

AC